

REMARKS

Claims 1-60 are pending in the present application. Independent claims 40, 47, and 54 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found at least in lines 4-6 on page 29 of the Patent Application. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner indicated that the claims 1-39 are allowable. Claims 40-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Poisner (U.S. Patent No. 6,012,154) in view of Smit (U.S. Patent No. 6,393,589). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (CCPA 1974).

Poisner describes a watchdog timer 232 that may be used for detecting and/or recovering from computer system malfunctions. The watchdog timer 232 is located on an expansion bus bridge 230 and may periodically receive a reset signal from a software agent 212 via a host bus 220. If the watchdog timer 232 expires, an interrupt signal may be asserted to a processor 205. See Poisner, col. 4, l. 66- col.5, l. 9 and Figure 2.

As admitted by the Examiner, Poisner does not teach or suggest determining an expiration of a watchdog timer on an integrated circuit and responding to a system error by a microcontroller on the integrated circuit, as set forth in independent claims 40, 47, and 54. To the contrary, Poisner teaches that the watchdog timer 232 is deployed on the expansion bus bridge 230, which is a completely separate device from the processor 205 and a software agent storage area 210 that stores the software agent 212. The Examiner therefore relies on Smit to describe a watchdog timer that is incorporated on the same chip as a microprocessor.

However, neither Poisner nor Smit describe or suggest evaluating the system state in the computer system using Alert Standard Format sensor data. The cited references also fail to teach or suggest determining a system error in the computer system based on the Alert Standard Format sensor data. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

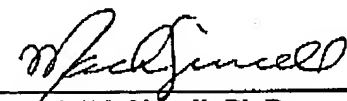
For at least the aforementioned reasons, Applicants respectfully submits that independent claims 40, 47, 54, and all claims depending therefrom are not obvious over Poisner and Smit, either alone or in combination. Applicants request that the Examiner's rejections of claims 40-60 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

For the aforementioned reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (713) 934-4052 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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Mark W. Sincell, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 52,226
Williams Morgan & Amerson, P.C.
10333 Richmond Avenue, Suite 1100
Houston, TX 77042
(713) 934-7000
(713) 934-7011 (Fax)
AGENT FOR APPLICANTS